


The Fund Ended

Queer Optical Illusions.

Here, the old proverb, "seeing is believing," is a very popular one, there is another truer and better worth our consideration which tells us: "Appearances are deceiving."

It is true that all we know of what is about us comes to us through our senses. But our senses are not infallible. We were shut up inside our bodies and had to depend on these servants of ours, seeing, smelling, hearing, touching, and tasting. These ideas we can ever have of the nature and qualities of things. These servants of ours, however, are not infallible. Sometimes, I am sorry to have to admit, not always as reliable as they might be. Sometimes they are deceived. Sometimes they contradict it and tell a different one. Sometimes two or three will agree in what they tell, but the fourth will disagree with them and possibly with each other. Very often they have to be carefully compared before we can be sure. They are compared before anything like the truth of what they tell can be arrived at.

Here, for instance, is a thing that our sense of sight, aided by our sense of feel-



The Frozen Heart Warmed.

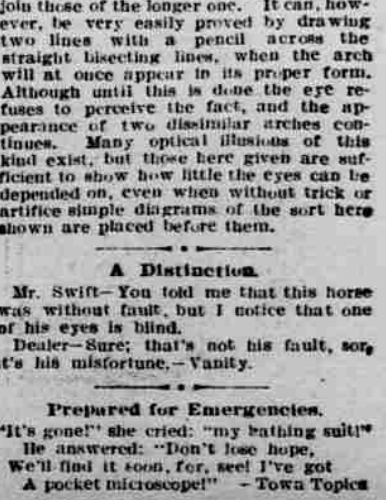
ing assure us is a coffee bean, but it neither smells nor tastes like one. It is, in fact, a counterfeit made of pressed dough, or some such matter, and it is not a coffee bean at all. So the unwary. Cross the first and second fingers and roll a small marble between their inner edges on the palm of your other hand and your sense of feeling insists there are two marbles between your fingers. There is only one. If you play this trick upon a playmate and make him close his eyes, so that he cannot correct one sense by another, he will believe he really has two marbles between his fingers.

Ventriloquists deceive our sense of hearing very perfectly and completely. I know of one little miss who burst into indignant tears because the showman, who had been holding an animated conversation with her or that other, had suddenly, and instantaneously doubled them up, thrust them into

and speckled breackeens (which is *carpesyrax* for "minnows") darted hith-

them. Even the lower animals are frequently imposed upon by their senses. A fungus grows, plants of the toadstool family, which smell so exactly like spoiled meat that blow-flies lay their eggs upon it and the larvae, when hatched, starve to death.

None of our senses are as readily imposed upon as our sense of sight. In figure 1 in the accompanying illustration we see a figure which is not a figure at all, but a straight line, yet to the eye from which it springs, the measurement it is the same. The proportions of a figure give us an idea of height and width, and a figure which is tall and slender person looks tall, a stout person short. In figure 2 the curved figures appear of different sizes, the upper one is not so tall as the lower one, yet they are the same. In figure 3 the two parallel lines appear to diverge. Figure 4 represents a gothic arch bisected at one side by a straight line, and the two sides of the arch are equal. On looking at the two sides of the arch it seems impossible that both can be of



The Brothers and the Raven.